

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

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PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /139 W

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R 141543Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8026

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 5550

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO UR RO

SUBJECT: REPORTED PARTY MEETINGS IN MOSCOW

REF: A. MOSCOW 15320 B. STATE 241616 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY . ANY PLANS WHICH LCY MIGHT HAVE FOR PARTICIPATION IN MOSCOW WARSAW PACT PARTY MEETINGS WOULD BE VERY CLOSELY HELD, AND DIRECT CHECK ON ROMANIAN REPORT NOT FEASIBLE. HOWEVER, EMBASSY'S OWN ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION LARGELY CONFIRMED BY CHECKS WITH OTHER SOURCES HERE, IS THAT YUGOSLAV PARTICIPATION IN MOSCOW CP MEETINGS ON IDEOLOGICAL COORDINATION AND SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION (REF A) IS NOT LIKELY. END SUMMARY.

2. PARTICIPATION WOULD OBVIOUSLY CONSTITUTE SIGNIFICANT STEP IN YUGOSLAV RELATIONSHIPS WITH BLOC AS A WHOLE WHICH TO DATE HAVE BEEN CONFINED MAINLY TO ECONOMIC SPHERE. UNQUESTIONABLY THERE HAS BEEN SOME NARROWING OF DIFFERENCES IN OUTLOOK IN INTERNATIONAL SPHERE BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND USSR WITH BOTH FINDING COMMON GROUND IN STRONG "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" STANCE OF NONALIGNED MOVEMENT AND WITH GOY SEEMINGLY MORE WILLING THAN BEFORE TO BURY THE HATCHET. BUT OVER PARTICIPATION IN BLOC MEETINGS ON IDEOLOGY AND "SOCIALIST CONSTRUCTION" WOULD CONNOTE DEGREE OF IDENTIFICATION

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WHICH WE DO NOT THINK YUGOSLAWS WANT.

3. AS RECENTLY AS LAST MONTH TITO TOLD AMBASSADOR (BELGRADE 5082 NOTAL) THAT SOVIETS HAD INVITED HIM TO USSR ON HOLIDAY LAST SUMMER JUST PRIOR TO WARSAW PACT MEETING IN CRIMEA, THAT HE "KNEW WHAT THAT INVOLVED", AND THAT HE THOUGHT IT NEITHER APPROPRIATE NOR USEFUL TO BE IN SOVIET UNION WITH WP PARTY LEADERS. YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP'S SENSITIVITY TO APPEARANCE OF LINKS WITH WP THUS REMAINS UNDIMINISHED. ALSO, ATTENDANCE WOULD CALL INTO QUESTION YUGOSLAVIA'S NONALIGNED CREDENTIALS AT TIME WHEN TITO IS EMPHASIZING HIS NONALIGNED LEADERSHIP POSITION, PARTICULARLY AS WAY TO MARK OUT MEANINGFUL ROLE FOR YUGOSLAVS IN MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. FINALLY, APPEARS TO US YUGOSLAV PARTY REPRESENTATIVE COULD ONLY LOSE BY BEING ODD MAN OUT IN BLOC IDEOLOGICAL FORUM -- YUGOSLAVS' PRESTIGE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO SELF-MANAGEMENT AND OTHER IDEOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS WHICH THEY WOULD NOT DISAVOW AND WHICH OTHER PARTIES COULD ONLY CONDEMN IN CLOSED SESSION.

4. WE SEE LITTLE CHANCE OF YUGOSLAVS SEEKING COORDINATION WITH BLOC IN FOREIGN PROPAGANDA FIELD; THEY ARE HAVING ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITH SOVIETS JUST ON BILATERAL LEVEL TRYING TO ACHIEVE RECIPROCITY ON TWO COUNTRIES INFORMATION ACTIVITIES.

5. CERTAINLY THERE IS NOTHING WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PICK UP FROM LOCAL SOURCES WHICH WOULD TEND TO AUTHENTICATE MOSCOW REPORT (REF A). BRITISH EMBASSY HERE CONCURS THAT YUGOSLAV PARTY REPRESENTATION AT BLOC IDEOLOGICAL SESSION HIGHLY UNLIKELY AND WOULD REPRESENT SERIOUS POLICY SHIFT. ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR IS GIVING BRIEF RUNDOWN ON MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL CP ACTIVITIES CONFIRMED (DEC 13.) THAT THERE WOULD BE EARLY IDEOLOGICAL MEETING OF EE PARTIES AT CC SECRETARY LEVEL. BUT HE FIRMLY DOUBTED YUGOSLAVS WOULD ATTEND, ANTICIPATING THAT YUGOSLAVS WOULD FEEL THAT THEIR ATTENDANCE WOULD RUN COUNTER TO THEIR POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT. HE SAID YUGOSLAVS HAVE SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED ATTENDING WP COUNTRY MEETINGS, OFFICIAL AND PARTY, ON MATTERS IN IDEOLOGICAL-EDUCATIONAL FIELD. SOVIET EMBASSY CONTACT RECENTLY TOLD US THERE HAS BEEN NO "IDEOLOGICAL RAPPROCHEMENT" BETWEEN SOVIETS AND YUGOSLAVS.

6. IN SUM, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT YUGOSLAVS WOULD BE IN-CONFIDENTIAL

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TERESTED IN BECOMING INVOLVED, MOREOVER WE ANTICIPATE THAT OVERT PARTICIPATION WOULD RAISE SOME OF THE VERY QUESTIONS WHICH NONALIGNED YUGOSLAVIA IS WORKING HARD TO BEAT DOWN.
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